

For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Jim Ondrey, Public Affairs Officer  
Phone: (614) 462-5273  
Mobile: (614) 507-0511

### **Franklin County Commissioners Launch Most Comprehensive Environmental Health Initiative in Recent Memory**

Franklin County Commissioners today signed plans for the installation of sanitary sewer lines in San Margherita, which is located in the northern part of Franklin Township. This is the first of the 13 Water Quality Partnership, sanitary sewer projects slated to be undertaken by the county starting this summer and running through 2005.

These projects are expected to alleviate existing contamination brought on by failed or failing on-lot septic and leaching systems and off-lot discharging aeration systems within these local neighborhoods. The commissioners have budgeted 10.9 million dollars to this important environmental health initiative.

The Water Quality Partnership, which includes the Franklin County Commissioners, the Franklin County Sanitary Engineer, the Franklin County Board of Health, along with the Columbus Board of Health, and the Columbus Public Utilities Division, identified areas of contamination in the City of Columbus and the unincorporated areas of Franklin County and formulated a plan of action to eliminate these problems. The San Margherita project will be the first of the areas identified by the Water Quality Partnership to be sewered.

“The intent of these 13 projects is to eliminate the potential health threat of contaminated ground water from these Franklin County communities,” said Dewey R. Stokes, president of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. “The project in San Margherita, although small compared to some of the others we will be undertaking later this summer, is significant in that it will eliminate the pollution entering the old quarry nearby. It will bring sanitary sewer hook-ups to 28 homes along with an existing trailer park. Fifteen of these homes are in Franklin Township and 13 are in Norwich Township.”

The San Margherita sanitary sewer line installation will cost the county approximately \$350,000. The project will begin on July 1, 2003 with completion slated for the second or third week in August 2003.

The commissioners expect to have six to seven of these sanitary sewer installation projects under construction by the end of this year with one beginning each month. The remaining projects will commence during 2004.

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